

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9 and 17 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented system of developing multi-tier business applications, comprising:

an Integrated Development Environment (IDE), executed by a computer, for creating and maintaining a multi-tier business application on a multiple tier computer network, wherein the IDE includes a Topological Multi-Tier Business Application Composer that is used by a developer to graphically ~~design, develop, maintain, build, test, debug, and deploy~~ create and maintain the multi-tier business application, the Composer includes a window and a palette, the palette contains graphical constructs representing tiers and components of the tiers that are used to ~~design, develop, maintain, build, test, debug, and deploy~~ create and maintain a graphical representation of the multi-tier business application in the window, and when creating the multi-tier business application, the developer decides on a number of tiers, identifies workstations and servers within each of the tiers, and defines processing performed by each tier and its components.

2. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the icons are dragged from the palette onto the window, and thereafter connected together, in a topological structure for the multi-tier business application.

3. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the components are selected from a group comprising workstations, servers, application files, connections, data paths, user-defined processes, and other user-defined elements.

4. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the Composer is used to perform one or more actions selected from a group comprising:

creating the tiers involved in the multi-tier business application;

specifying the components of each of the tiers; and

specifying properties that identify each of the tiers and the components of the tiers.

5. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1, wherein the IDE further comprises a Meta-model that captures information entered via the Composer and that persistently stores the information.

6. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein the captured information is selected from a group comprising information about tiers, workstations, servers, application files, connections, data paths, user-defined processes, and other user-defined elements.

7. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein the Meta-model is updated and kept in synchronization with any updates made to the multi-tier business application via the Composer.

8. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 5, wherein the Meta-model is accessible by other tools.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented method for developing multi-tier business applications, comprising:

creating and maintaining a multi-tier business application on a multiple tier computer network using an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) executed by a computer, wherein the IDE includes a Topological Multi-Tier Business Application Composer that is used by a developer to graphically ~~design, develop, maintain, build, test, debug, and deploy~~ create and maintain the multi-tier business application, the Composer includes a window and a palette, the palette contains graphical constructs representing tiers and components of the tiers that are used to ~~design, develop, maintain, build, test, debug, and deploy~~ create and maintain a graphical representation of the multi-tier business application in the window, and when creating the multi-tier business application, the developer decides on a number of tiers, identifies workstations and servers within each of the tiers, and defines processing performed by each tier and its components.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein the icons are dragged from the palette onto the window, and thereafter connected together, in a topological structure for the multi-tier business application.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein the components are selected from a group comprising workstations, servers, application files, connections, data paths, user-defined processes, and other user-defined elements.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein the Composer is used to perform one or more actions selected from a group comprising:

creating the tiers involved in the multi-tier business application;
specifying the components of each of the tiers; and
specifying properties that identify each of the tiers and the components of the tiers.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein the IDE further comprises a Meta-model that captures information entered via the Composer and that persistently stores the information.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, wherein the captured information is selected from a group comprising information about tiers, workstations, servers, application files, connections, data paths, user-defined processes, and other user-defined elements.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, wherein the Meta-model is updated and kept in synchronization with any updates made to the multi-tier business application via the Composer.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, wherein the Meta-model is accessible by other tools.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An article of manufacture embodying logic for developing multi-tier business applications, the logic comprising:

creating and maintaining a multi-tier business application on a multiple tier computer network using an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) executed by a computer, wherein the IDE includes a Topological Multi-Tier Business Application Composer that is used by a developer to graphically ~~design, develop, maintain, build, test, debug, and deploy~~ create and maintain the multi-tier business application, the Composer includes a window and a palette, the palette contains graphical constructs representing tiers and components of the tiers that are used to ~~design, develop, maintain, build, test, debug, and deploy~~ create and maintain a graphical representation of the multi-tier business application in the window, and when creating the multi-tier business application, the developer decides on a number of tiers, identifies workstations and servers within each of the tiers, and defines processing performed by each tier and its components.

18. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the icons are dragged from the palette onto the window, and thereafter connected together, in a topological structure for the multi-tier business application.

19. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the components are selected from a group comprising workstations, servers, application files, connections, data paths, user-defined processes, and other user-defined elements.

20. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the Composer is used to perform one or more actions selected from a group comprising:

creating the tiers involved in the multi-tier business application;

specifying the components of each of the tiers; and

specifying properties that identify each of the tiers and the components of the tiers.

21. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the IDE further comprises a Meta-model that captures information entered via the Composer and that persistently stores the information.

22. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the captured information is selected from a group comprising information about tiers, workstations, servers, application files, connections, data paths, user-defined processes, and other user-defined elements.

23. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the Meta-model is updated and kept in synchronization with any updates made to the multi-tier business application via the Composer.

24. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the Meta-model is accessible by other tools.